



Yunnan Birding and Wildlife Tour

17 Days Yunnan Birding and Wildlife Tour

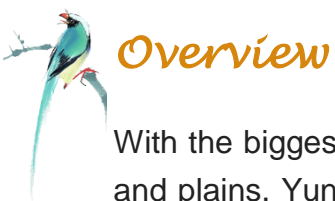
Dec 15-31, 2023



- Day 1: Shangri-La, Yunnan
- Day 2: Shangri-La & surrounds
- Day 3: Shangri-La / Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve
- Day 4-5: Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve
- Day 6: Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve / Dali
- Day 7: Dali / Gaoligong Mountains
- Day 8-9: Gaoligong Mountains
- Day 10: Gaoligong Mountains / Gaoligongshan Natural Park
- Day 11-12: Gaoligongshan Natural Park.
- Day 13: Gaoligongshan Natural Park to Yingjiang
- Day 14-15: Yingjiang & surrounds
- Day 16: Yingjiang / Tengchong
- Day 17: Tengchong / Depart



Black Snub-nosed Monkey



With the biggest diversity of landforms in China including mountains, lakes, plateaus, wetlands, and plains, Yunnan Province boasts of the largest number of birds and mammal species which are restricted to different types of habitats. Being famed as the "Kingdom of Plants and Animals", Yunnan Province is home to the most of plant species in China and some incredible mammals including Black Snub-nosed Monkey, Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon (Gaoligong Hoolock Gibbon), Phayre's Leaf-monkey, Stump-tailed Macaque, Bengal Slow Loris, etc. Besides, Yunnan has recorded over 940 bird species including around 40 endemic species, ranking first in China in terms of the total.

This itinerary covers some prestigious wildlife sites in Yunnan Province. For insurance, the little-known Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve and the Gaoligong Mountains which has been listed as one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots. Besides, we will visit Cangshan Mountains, Yingjiang, Tengchong, etc. These places hold a great diversity of pheasants, laughingthrushes, babblers, parrotbills, and hornbills. We can expect some extraordinary birds like White-cheeked Partridge, Rufous-throated Partridge, Red Junglefowl, Kalij Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Grey-headed Swamphen, Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Golden-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Long-tailed Broadbill, etc



Common Green Magpie



Highlights

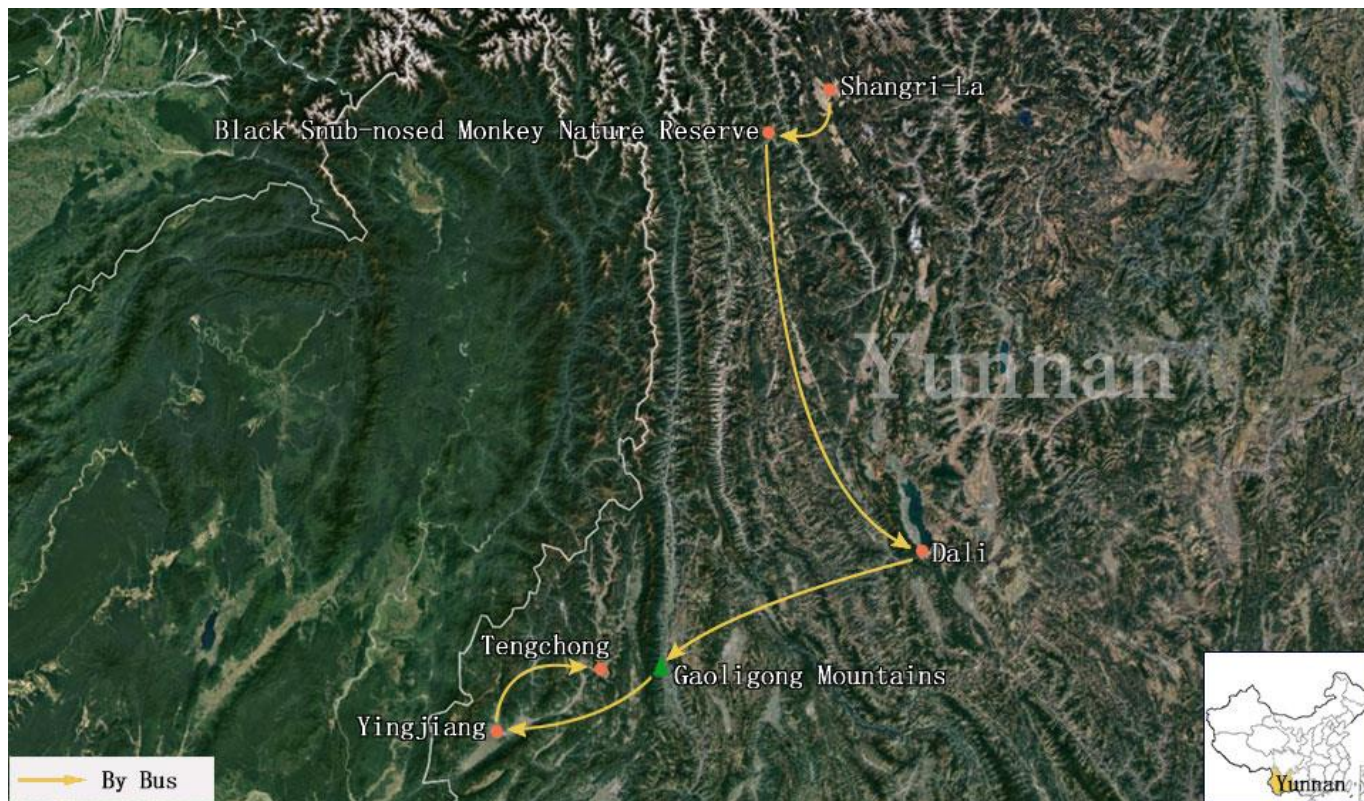
1. Nice chances for Yunnan Snub-nosed Monkey, Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon (Gaoligong Hoolock Gibbon), Phayre's Leaf-monkey, Stump-tailed Macaque, Bengal Slow Loris, etc.
2. This itinerary covers the most popular bird and wildlife sites in Yunnan.
3. We run the trip in the best season. In wintertime, birds move to lower altitudes and tend to stay as flocks.
4. An experienced wildlife guide who has guided this trip many times ensures you a lifetime traveling experience.
5. A small group size of no more than 8 travelers.
6. Years of working as a local partner for some prestigious western companies specialized in birds and wildlife.
7. A strong logistic team in the office to ensure our trip goes smoothly and every participant has a comfortable and memorable journey.



Tour Info Sheet

Highlight Birds	Black-necked Crane, Black Stork, White-tailed Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, White-cheeked Partridge, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, Hill Partridge, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Rufous-throated Partridge, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-breasted Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet, Golden-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Broad-billed Warbler, Crested Treeswift, Greater Yellownappe, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, White-browed Piculet, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Scarlet Finch, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Pale-billed Parrotbill, Whiskered Yuhina, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Beautiful Sibia, Long-tailed Sibia, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Golden Bush Robin, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Black-throated Sunbird, Green-tailed Sunbird, Dark-sided Thrush, Long-tailed Thrush, Wedge-billed Wren Babbler, Streaked Wren Babbler, Grey-bellied Tesia, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Yunnan Nuthatch, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Pink-rumped Rosefinch, Sharpe's Rosefinch, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, etc.
Numbers of Species to Expect	200-250
Ease of Birding	moderate with a few tricky species
Highlight Mammals	Black Snub-nosed Monkey, Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon, Phayre's Leaf-monkey, Stump-tailed Macaque, Bengal Slow Loris, etc.
Other Attractions	colorful minority culture of Yi, Bai, Hui, Dai, etc.
Photography Opportunities	good photography chances for mammals, birds, scenery, and the people
Habitats Covered	tropical and subtropical forests, woodlands
Expected Climate	very comfortable, cool in the morning, warm in the south part
Physical Requirements	mostly easy, demanding but optional in certain parts
Accommodation	comfortable
Transportation	19-seat van

Map



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Shangri-La, Yunnan.

Arrive in Shangri-La or Xianggelila, capital of Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which is famous for its pleasant climate, rich cultural and natural diversity. Meet your private guide or driver upon arrival at the airport before being driven for about 20 minutes to the downtown hotel.

Day 2: Shangri-La Alpine Botanical Garden & Napa Hai Nature Reserve.

Shangri-La Alpine Botanical Garden is the only botanical garden in the Tibetan regions in China, and it is also China's first high-elevation botanical garden built at low latitude. With its unique geography and location, this garden is occupied by alpine coniferous forests and other alpine floras and is home to many exciting forest species. We will have a good chance of seeing Yunnan Nuthatch, Rufous-tailed Babbler, Chinese Fulvetta, White-browed Fulvetta, Rufous-vented Tit, Grey-



Yunnan Nuthatch

crested Tit, Sichuan Tit, Black-browed Tit, Buff-barred Warbler, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, White-throated Redstart, Rufous-breasted Accentor, White-winged Grosbeak, Pink-rumped Rosefinch, Sharpe's Rosefinch, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, Black-headed Greenfinch, Godlewski's Bunting, etc.



Black-necked Crane

Located 8km away from the downtown, Napa Hai (Napa Lake) is a seasonal alpine lake surrounded by mountains. It is replenished by meltwater from the mountains in summer, while parts of it turn into small grasslands and wetlands in winter with the evaporation of the water. As a result of it, thousands of waterfowls and grassland birds visit this area during wintertime including the elegant Black-necked Crane. Other birds need our attention here including Black Stork, Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Falcated Duck, Northern Pintail, Red-crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, Pallas's Gull, Brown-headed Gull, Great White Egret, Chinese Pond Heron, Himalayan Griffon, White-tailed Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Black Kite, Common Kestrel, Grey-backed Shrike, Red-billed Chough, Daurian Jackdaw, etc.

Day 3: Lamuyangcuo Lake to Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve.

Located at the front of the famous Songzanlin Lamasery, Lamuyangcuo Lake is another important destination for migratory birds to Yunnan. We can visit the lake this morning if we miss any of our targets on the previous day. This small lake attracts many interesting waterfowls in wintertime. In addition, the nearby shrubs and forests are home to many highland specials such as Common Snipe, Great Bittern, Cattle Egret, White-browed Tit Warbler, Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, Little Bunting, etc.



White-browed Tit Warbler

We will drive on to the Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve this afternoon. Along the way, we will explore some stream sides and valleys for Crimson-browed Finch, Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Yellow-bellied Fairy Fantail, White-throated Fantail, Spotted Nutcracker, etc.



Black Snub-nosed Monkey

Day 4-5: Black Snub-nosed Monkey Nature Reserve.

Located in the core area of the Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas, the reserve holds a primitive and complete eco-system that consists of a lot of elusive and unique wildlife and floras including the extraordinary Black Snub-nosed Monkey. The monkey, also known as Yunnan Snub-nosed Monkey, is a large black and white primate that lives only in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan. Coniferous and deciduous forests in the mountainous regions of Yunnan are the ideal terrain for these primates.

With their strong adaptations to the environment, these monkeys thrive at extreme altitudes despite the below-freezing temperatures and thin air. So they live at the highest altitude of any known non-human primate.

The lush vegetation is also home to many interesting birds such as Hume's Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Koklass Pheasant, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Bar-winged Wren Babbler, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Black-headed Sibia, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Sharpe's Rosefinch, Godlewski's Bunting, Yellow-throated Bunting, etc. We will spend two full days inside the reserve to search for our targets.

Day 6: The Monkey Nature Reserve to Dali.

We will continue our exploration in the reserve this morning, then drive on to Dali in the afternoon. Dali is most famous for the huge lake named Erhai and the grand Cangshan Mountains standing by the western side of the lake. If time permits, we will go to Erhai to look for some waterfowls like Purple Swamphen (Grey-headed Swamphen).



Grey-headed Swamphen

Day 7: Dali to Gaoligong Mountains via Cangshan Mountains.

For birders, Cangshan Mountains are very attractive for rich forest bird species of low and middle elevations. According to statistics, over 200 bird species have been recorded here. In the early morning, we will drive along a paved mountain road up to the higher part of the mountain and start our morning search for the star bird Lady Amherst's Pheasant from there. Then we will slowly walk down the winding road to search for other specials including Spotted Nutcracker, Black-browed Tit, White-browed Fulvetta, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Yunnan Fulvetta, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Rufous-capped Babbler, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Spotted Laughingthrush, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Yellow-throated Bunting. With a good amount of work, we also have chances to see Rufous-tailed Babbler and Bar-winged Wren Babbler. In the afternoon, we will complete a 4.5-hour journey to the Gaoligong Mountains.



Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Day 8-9: Gaoligong Mountains (Baihualing area).

Located on the western side of Yunnan Province, the Gaoligong belongs to the south end of the Hengduan Mountain Range, the elevation changes sharply from 650 meters at the bottom to 5,128 meters at the peak. As a result of its 7 complete vegetation types, Gaoligong Mountains have been rated as one of the 36 hot spots for biodiversity by Conservation International. So far, around 525 bird species have been recorded here, accounting for 43.3% of the total in Yunnan Province, in which around 40 bird species are under national protection.

Winter is the best birding season in Yunnan, as most birds move to lower-altitude areas that are warmer and have more food available. Besides, birds tend to stay as flocks in winter which gives

us more opportunities to see them.

We will spend two days here searching for birds in different habitats. Some species tend to feed on the ground such as Silver Pheasant, Mrs. Hume's Pheasant, Hill Partridge, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Rufous-throated Partridge, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Grey-winged Blackbird, Long-tailed Thrush, Wedge-billed Wren Babbler, Grey-bellied Tesia, Slaty-bellied Tesia, Chestnut-headed Tesia, etc.

During our exploration in the dense virgin forests, we will look for Himalayan Cutia, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Great Barbet, Golden-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Broad-billed Warbler, Bay Woodpecker, Greater Yellownape, Red-tailed Minla, Scarlet Finch, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Whiskered Yuhina, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Striated Bulbul, Flavescent Bulbul, Beautiful Sibia, Long-tailed Sibia, Large Niltava, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Golden Bush Robin, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Short-billed Minivet, Scarlet Minivet, Yellow-cheeked Tit, etc. In addition, we can also see some beautiful sunbirds including Fire-tailed Sunbird, Black-throated Sunbird, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Green-tailed Sunbird, etc.

There are a lot of "bird hides" built in Gaoligong thanks to the fast development of bird watching and bird photography. For people who prefer to enjoy a good number of species more easily, those bird hides are the best places to achieve this goal.

Day 10: Gaoligong Mountains to Gaoligongshan Natural Park.

We will spend some time birding on the mountain foot area before we drive to Gaoligongshan Natural Park.



Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler



Golden-throated Barbet

Day 11-12: Gaoligongshan Natural Park.

Although the habitat in Gaoligongshan Natural Park is similar to the Gaoligong Mountains, we have the best chance to find a unique creature here, namely the Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon (Gaoligong Hoolock Gibbon). It is one of three species of hoolock gibbons and was first described in January 2017. The Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon is named after Luke Skywalker from the Star Wars franchise, as the scientists who described it are fans of the franchise. It will be our most top target during our two-day exploration here. With some luck, we can also expect Phayre's Leaf-monkey, Stump-tailed Macaque, Bengal Slow Loris, Black Giant Squirrel, etc.

Birding is also exciting here, we have good chances to encounter some sought-after species including Silver Pheasant, Black Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Great Barbet, Golden-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Bay Woodpecker, Black-eared Shrike Babbler, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Pygmy Cupwing, Ashy-throated Warbler, Davison's Leaf Warbler, Black-faced Warbler, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Black-throated Parrotbill, Striated Yuhina, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Grey-sided Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Beautiful Sibia, White-browed Bush Robin, White-tailed Robin, Long-tailed Thrush, Chinese Thrush, Fujian Niltava, Himalayan Shortwing, Green-tailed Sunbird, Blue-winged Leafbird, etc.



Green-tailed Sunbird

Day 13: Gaoligongshan Natural Park to Yingjiang.

We will continue our exploration in Gaoligongshan Natural Park before driving to Yingjiang in the afternoon.

Day 14-15: Yingjiang & surrounds.

Located at the end of the southwest, Yingjiang is a county that borders Myanmar. With opulent sunshine, flourishing virgin forests, and various habitats, over 680 kinds of birds have been

recorded here, which count around 50% of bird species of China. That's what makes Yingjiang one of the unmissable birding destinations in China. During our two-day exploration, we will mainly focus on the Dayingjiang River and the Hornbill Valley. In the reed marshes and benchlands of the Dayingjiang River, we will get to see some very special species. Among them, we may seek out several River Terns although it can be difficult as there are only around 10 terns visit this area every winter. Other species we hope to encounter including Indian Spot-billed Duck, Small Pratincole, River Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Coppersmith Barbet, Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-breasted Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet, Striated Grassbird, Rufescent Prinia, Grey-breasted Prinia, Grey-throated Martin, Asian Barred Owlet, Dusky Warbler, Collared Myna, Great Myna, Citrine Wagtail, Paddyfield Pipit, Little Bunting, etc.



Grey Peacock Pheasant

We will spend at least a day in the Hornbill Valley, an up-and-coming birding site that is renowned for the best place to see hornbills in China, in addition to a big variety of pheasants, laughingthrushes, flycatchers. We will slowly explore the forest in search of birds including Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, Kalij Pheasant, White-cheeked Partridge, Green-billed Malkoha, Crested Serpent Eagle, Jerdon's Baza, Collared Scops Owl, Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Brown Boobook, Red-headed Trogon, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Blue-eared Barbet, Greater Flameback, Lesser Yellownap, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Collared Falconet, Oriental Hobby, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue-naped Pitta, Black-hooded

Oriole, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Collared Treepie, Sultan Tit, Striated Swallow, Black-crested Bulbul, Grey-eyed Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, Spot-throated Babbler, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Streaked Wren Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, White-rumped Shama, White-tailed Flycatcher, Lesser Shortwing, Blue-winged Leafbird, etc. Here, the "bird hide" is also optional to increase our chances.

Day 16: Yingjiang to Tengchong.

We can spend some time in Yingjiang to try our targets, then we will drive on to Tengchong.

Day 17: Departure from Tengchong.

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to Tengchong Airport to catch your flight. Depart from Tengchong, AlpineBirding service ends.



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